

ST JAMES THE GREAT CHURCH COLWALL



VESTRY & ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING

SUNDAY 2ND APRIL 2017



Rector's Report

Rev'd Melanie Horton

It doesn't matter how much later we hold this APCM it always seems to come round with amazing rapidity. And this year is no different. The year that is just passed seems to have whizzed by in a blur of activity and action and there is much to report on! But it is also in many senses a work in progress and not a finished article so there is much to look forward to as well.

Some significant member of our community have sadly dies this year and we say goodbye to Doug Dipple, Tom Marsh, Guy Houghton and very recently Peter Stevenson. All of them have in their ways played important parts in our life together and saying goodbye is always sad, even when done in the light of Christian hope and expectation. We have continued to offer a significant ministry to our community at times of change in their lives, both the joyful with Baptisms and Weddings and the more challenging with Funerals. These occasional offices form an important part of our worshipping life together.

Last year I set out an agenda for refreshing and revitalising our worship together so that we could offer "a sacred and reverent space in which we could draw closer to God through the words of the liturgy and the actions of the sacrament". To that end throughout the year we have introduced a series of seasonal liturgies, making the most of the material offered in Common Worship to provide worship that is both fresh in its content but familiar in its structure. We began the work of revision from the starting point of the Worship Questionnaires and tried to take into account many of the things that were raised.

This work is nearly complete with just one booklet remaining to be produced, that of the Easter season. It has been a mammoth undertaking and I am deeply grateful for the support and input of Ann and the Ministry Team and for Joys patience with the constant printing and reprinting. It has also been good to receive the feedback of the congregation, both constructive criticism and praise! I hope that now we have a set of liturgies that keeps worship fresh, and relevant to the particular time of year.

In addition to our revision of the Communion liturgy we have also spent some time this year looking at Parish Praise which has now morphed into Wider Worship. It was felt, and came out through the consultation, that the previous pattern was becoming difficult to sustain and therefore a new pattern has emerged with some Wider

Worship retaining the style of Parish Praise, being led individually by a member of the congregation. Other months the Wider Worship is being used by the church to offer services which seek to draw in different groups of people. The first example of this was the grandparent service in February. Through the coming year we hope to hold similar services aimed at celebrating marriage, families and baptism, and another vintage songs of praise in the same mould as our village carol service.

I said last year that the work of Saint James Church was much more than a Sunday morning and that we must be willing to offer alternatives to the traditional Sunday morning service. To this end we have begun two new initiatives this year. Both involving children. The first was Experience Christmas. Using material produced in the Diocese of Gloucester we ran a morning in church just before Christmas which was attended by all of the village school children and which allowed them to engage creatively and imaginatively with the Christmas story. Lessons were learned about the structure and running of such a morning but the overall verdict was overwhelmingly positive. The children and their teachers had a great morning and those of us who led the day I'm sure got just as much out of it as the children did.

The second new initiative in our worshipping life has been the introduction since September of Messy Church which is held at the village school, in the school hall, on the third Wednesday of each month. It is a mammoth undertaking! It runs for an hour and a half and includes feeding the children and any adults who attend with them a two course meal as well as running craft activities and worship. It is a tried and tested pattern and our Messy Church has risen from about 19 children to on average somewhere between 30 and 35. There are a team of helpers who run the activities and talk to the children. It is hugely popular with the children and a talking point whenever I am in school. The team of helpers are diverse in ages and skills and each one contributes something vital to the children's experience. My enormous thanks must go to Renée Chester, Anne Lanyon-Hogg, Jenny Houghton, Steve and Trish Hockett, Mike and Marion Poulson, Marcus and June Allen, Sandy Schulkins, Lesley Hitchin and Claire Dobson. In order to build on the foundations being laid in Messy Church we need to continue to develop our team of helpers. We need people who are willing to work with the children

and also a dedicated team who would be happy to take on the catering. In the summer we plan to hold a celebration service for one year of messy church followed by a lunch. All the families who currently attend Messy Church will be invited to this occasion. There is still much to do in developing our worship and offering a variety of experiences but I feel that we have made a good beginning and are starting to lay the foundations of a diverse pattern of worship offered at different times and in different places throughout the week.

The worship with that we offer would not be possible without a veritable army of volunteers who make it happen and so my thanks go to sacristans, servers, wardens and assistant wardens, flower arrangers, brass cleaners, bell ringers, sound operators, choir, orchestra and organists. All of whom play their part in making our worship the best that we can offer. This truly is a team effort and whilst it is invidious to try and name individuals I do want to take this moment to thank Jenny Houghton, who has just retired as our Sacristan, for her sterling hard work since she took over from Ruth Leadbeater. It is a largely an unsung but enormously important role and one that takes organisation and time. I must also single out Barbara Hatton for special thanks for her organisation of our servers. A role that she informed me when I arrived that she felt it was time for her to relinquish and yet one she has gone on filling for the past nine years. The departure from the role of Jenny and the desire of Barbara to be able to finally stand down from her efforts mean that we have had to look at the roles and revisit how we do things. Moving forward you will see some changes The most obvious of which will be the departure of servers robes! In conversation it was discovered that the wearing of robes prevented some people from feeling that they could offer to undertake this particular ministry. The point of robes is to create an orderly and uniform look to those who lead our worship but where they are becoming a barrier to participation then we must and have looked again at their use. The exact pattern to how this will all work is still being worked out and my thanks go to Richard King for his work in this. After Easter the new pattern will begin so watch this space! And please give some prayerful thought to whether the ministry of Sacristan/Server is one that you might fulfil.

Change seems to be the watchword at the moment and as well as changes to the content and presentation of our worship there are also

about to be major changes in our staff team. At last years APCM Steve Hockett and Richard King both stayed on as church warden's. This being despite the fact that in Richards case he had taken on the role of treasurer and in Steve's case the fact that he had already served for six years. I am most grateful to them both for their willingness to do this to assist in my return to being at the tiller full time. It was however only a transitional arrangement and during this year first Bill Clucas and then latterly Marcus Allen came on board to work alongside Steve and Richard in order to effect a seamless transition. Both Richard and Steve are stepping down as Churchwardens this year. My heartfelt and enormous thanks go to them both.

It is impossible to list all that Steve has done during his period as churchwarden. He has worked tirelessly for the church turning out for every wedding and many funerals, been here long before most of us have arrived and stayed long after most of us have left. And on a personal note has been both professional support and personal friend and I want to take this opportunity to thank him for his work and his dedication to this church community and to me as its Rector. His stepping down as churchwarden does not mean the end of his involvement in the life of the church just a well earned opportunity to have some rest and find his new role.

Richard has served as both churchwarden and treasurer, two demanding and meaty roles, for over a year now and I am grateful to him for his efficient cheerful and pragmatic approach to both roles. He as devoted much time and effort to our communal life and I am enormously grateful that he intends to stay on as our treasurer especially at this time when we must pull together to make our finances work. Whilst we are thinking about thanks I must offer my personal thanks and the thanks of the church to Joy for her tireless work as Parish Administrator and for her personal support of me as friend, confidant, protector and sounding board, her contribution is simply invaluable. And also to Anne and the team of retired clergy with whom I share the business of leading worship. It is a pleasure to minister amongst people of such skill and experience and I am eternally grateful to them for their continued help and support

This past year has also seen us begin some serious work on the re-ordering and redevelopment of the back of church in order to offer a servery and toilet facilities. As we have met to consider this development it has become clear that we need to have a vision not

just of what we might do now but how that might fit into a greater pattern. A number of us have visited churches that have already undertaken this work to get some ideas of what is possible and we have begun to meet on informal basis with a number of different architects to see what they might have to offer. Research shows that those churches which are growing are those which have developed their facilities to make them more comfortable and more suitable for the needs of a 21st century congregation. We have a building which is much loved by the community at which does not currently serve their needs. The desire is to use our building as an asset for mission and ministry and to serve the community. In order to undertake the sort of work we are thinking of we will need to seek grant funding and we will also need to be sure that we are meeting needs that exist. To that end we have begun with a Congregational consultation and are now planning a community consultation. One of the vital things that came out of the first part of this process is the need to work with and talk to the community church. This process has already begun through the auspices of CTIC.

It is wonderful when something serves needs on many levels and this report could not pass without mention of the Ale House Festival and the team who pull it together under the leadership of Phil Hitchen. It was a magnificent occasion thoroughly enjoyed by the village and all who attend and serves to raise our profile in the village and helped to ease the strain on our finances. It has already become a village institution and much loved by the community. My huge thanks go to all involved for their hard work, commitment and energy. There will be much more about finance and the need to raise funds in the treasurers report but simply to say if we are to deal with a forecast deficit of nearly 11,000 we all need to pull together and increase our fundraising efforts. Not just magnificent show stoppers like the Ale House Festival but lots of events, large and small. Chances to have fun together as well as raise money.

Before concluding this report I must mention to Requiem for Aleppo to be performed this afternoon, it properly belongs in next years report but I just wanted to make mention of the amazing work being done and the incredible publicity that it is for St James and the work that we do here.

One of the great successes of this year has been the bible study on the parables of Matthew that is just coming to an end now.

Facilitated by Barrie Hinksman and attended by up to 20 people these sessions have been both fascinating and challenging. There are plans for the year ahead for more bible study and possibly for an enquirers course. It is important that we resource ourselves and take opportunities to enrich our faith so that we can share it with others.

In the same vein one of the things that has become clear to me through this year is the need to enrich and deepen our prayer life together. We have much hard work ahead of us, many decisions to take and if we hope to succeed we must do this in Gods strength and to His plan. We are planning a number of initiatives to assist us in deepening our prayer life including a series of sermons on prayer and prayer workshops. If we are to undertake the mammoth tasks that lie head we cannot rely on our own strength alone but must tap into the love and support of God and his direction through our prayers, both corporate and individual.

Finally I would like to say thank you to you all, it has been an exciting year with many new things beginning and the year to come holds even more, it is my delight and privilege to be sharing this journey with you.

Churchwardens' Report

Steve Hockett & Richard King

During this last year, we are so pleased to have Melanie back to good health and in full harness again. This has meant we have not had to rely so heavily on our retired clergy but still owe a big thank you to Ken, Barry, Tim, and Bernard in helping us maintain two, and sometime, three church services here every week and at Coddington. We also are very grateful for all that our SSM Anne contributes to the life of the parish and support in the rector.

As well as all the usual Sunday services (some with baptisms), we have had a lot of weddings and funerals this year. Last year, the PCC agreed that we should have a bigger team of people who can act as verger for these services, and pay them a fee, but the bigger team has not yet materialised.

Messy Church started last September, and it is well attended (30-40 children). It is held midweek once a month at the village school. Melanie and her team have done an excellent job enthusing the children. The whole school came to the church just before Christmas

for 'Experience Christmas' and indeed it was quite an experience!

We are pleased to report that the new energy efficient boiler has been working well and the church can get quite warm. To achieve this, we need to run the heating for a long time beforehand and the costs have increased accordingly. We are trying to reduce the lead time to save on cost without loss of warmth and are getting to grips with this balancing act.

The new digital sound system was installed by Hilltop AV in October and after a few teething problems is now working well. It is much more flexible than the old system with the sound quality being much improved. Many thanks to Tony Philpott who has worked tirelessly to smooth the introduction and guide and support the system operators at all the Sunday services.

The fabric of the church is in general good order and we are very grateful to John Stock for managing the maintenance of the building.

Last autumn we started to look at the ideas for re-ordering the west end of the church to provide suitable facilities to make the church a more comfortable place to visit, including ideas for a toilet and kitchen servery area. As a precursor to developing these ideas we have embarked on a Mission Planning process which will involve as many people as possible in the church and in the wider village so that we can make sure whatever we plan is an integral part of our mission effort in Colwall.

This APCM will see both of us stepping down from the position of Warden with Richard hopefully continuing in his position of Treasurer. We have both really enjoyed serving as Wardens and even though the job has had its ups and downs, the support and encouragement from the majority of parishioners has been wonderful. We have been ably supported by our team of assistant wardens and thank them all for their help: Jane and Syd Hill, Stuart Hands, Bill Clucas, Marcus Allen and Mary Roberts. Mary and Jane regularly warden the 8:30am services in St James and the St Crispin Chapel, and we are very grateful to Cicely Palmer who looks after the St Crispin services.

Finally, of course our thanks to Joy Conlon for all she does to support Melanie, the staff, Wardens and the whole parish. It is as always a huge contribution for which we are immensely grateful.

Church Electoral Roll

Parish office

Following the renewal process for membership of the electoral roll, our numbers stand at 163 (a decrease of 2 from the previous year). If you are not on the electoral roll and would like to be included, please see one of the churchwardens for a form.

Health and Safety

Jane Hill

A full Church, Ale House and Churchyard risk assessment was carried out for the 2016 Church and Ale House Festival in 2016, using the Ecclesiastical Insurance assessment guidelines.

Fire Safety: all fire signs and extinguishers are in place and serviced (due June 2017).

Evacuation procedures are explained at any non regular event. First Aid: first aid boxes and accident books in the Church, Ale House, Belfry and Parish Office are checked regularly. No accidents have been reported in the last year.

Electrical Appliances: checked regularly, details in Parish Office
Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection: Kate Stock is the relevant Officer and no incidents have been reported.

Pest Control: Red Kite is contracted to carry out regular checks in the Church and Ale House.

Slips, Trips and Falls: a careful eye is kept on potential hazards. The new path at the West door will enable easy, safe access into the churchyard.

Risk Assessments: these are overseen by Melanie for all services.

Finance & Fundraising

Treasurer's Report

Richard King

Colwall PCC Treasurer's Report for the year ended 31 December 2016

The summary accounts are attached and the following gives the main highlights:

Our general church income has fallen by £1216 (including the tax element), which continues to be a major cause of concern. Again this year some of our regular donors have moved or died and new donors

have not entirely replaced them. Fortunately this has been offset in 2016 by a higher than usual fees income.

The Church and Ale House Festival was a great social success for the church and community and also raised £6913. Other fund raising events raised £1580, so in the end we missed our budget of £10,000 for fund raising by just over £1500.

The Ale House had a deficit of £1031 mainly due to the cost of redecoration inside and out, and repairs to the plumbing and taps. The income from rentals was up £964 on last year, a 50% increase.

Our Diocesan Parish Share was £56,106, an increase over 2015 of £3819 with Melanie's return to full health.

Overall our total expenditure increased by £2121 with the Parish Office continuing to control costs as far as is possible. The consequence of maintaining a warm church last year meant costs of heating and light increased from £2491 to £3385. Your Finance Committee has met quarterly to review progress and any items of an exceptional nature are approved at the PCC meetings.

The result of our Parish financial activities for the year is a deficit of £3630 (2015 £6359 deficit). This is after making a proposed contribution from our funds to mission giving of £2500 (2015 £3000). This giving, together with the special collections during 2016 from our normal services and charity fund raising (£2536) and from weddings and funerals, means we will have sent to Charities a total of £13,199 (2015 £10,298).

Overall our total funds now stand at £109,927 (2015 £119,950), a decrease of £10,023. The new sound system cost of £13,866 was charged directly to the Fabric Fund. We are very grateful to people who have donated to date just over £3000 (some in 2017) towards the costs of the system. We also were very grateful to receive a grant of £1000 towards the system from the Allchurches Trust.

The deficits over the last 2 years have totalled £10,000. In our budget for 2017, we estimate we will have a deficit of a further £10,000, taking our reserves below £100,000. This is unsustainable longer term and we need to work hard on a programme to raise our income through fund raising and increased regular giving.

If anyone who would like to see a copy of the full detailed accounts or have any questions to ask on these accounts please do not hesitate to contact me on 01684 541215.

Covenants, Gift Aid

Phil Probert

The church is very grateful for the generous giving of the congregation the majority of which is supported by gift aid declarations enabling the church to benefit from a tax repayment. If you have any questions on giving please contact me on 01684 540506 or speak to the treasurer Richard King

Fundraising

Steve Hockett

Thinking back over this year my first impression has been that it has proved to be a quiet one in terms of fund raising. Busy people can only do so much! Having said that we did manage to raise approximately £8,500 this year. The great majority of this being due to the last Colwall Church and Ale House Festival.

This coming year will see another Scarecrow Day and another Dog Show. I am also in the process of collecting and collating a 'Cook Book with a difference' - Colwall Favourites. Hopefully the number of concerts and similar events in the church will steadily increase as they can be very rewarding in more ways than just financially.

I want to thank the Fund Raising Committee for all their help, support and efforts this last year - Phil & Leslie Hitchins, Carol Pearce, Christine Bagust and my wife Trish plus all those other people who are dragged in to help! I wish committee the best of luck with all their upcoming ventures and will give them as much help and support as I can. It has long been my intention that when I step down from being a Warden I also 'retire' from the Fund Raising Committee as I believe that one of the Wardens should chair this team. They will then be a direct link between this team and the Finance Team/PCC. I have chaired the committee now for 6 years and in that time we have raised just over £40,000. Not a bad effort but perhaps 'new blood' will spur the team on to the bigger and better amounts we need to raise. Please give them as much help and support as you can manage so as to achieve this.

Fabric & Building Development

John Stock

The Alehouse has been re-decorated inside and out.

An excellent new path to the West door has been built and when the west door has been adjusted will provide an excellent route out of the church.

The next Quinquennial Inspection is not due until 2020.

Sound System -

Richard King

A new digital sound system was installed at St James in October replacing the old analog one which had served us well for 20 years. The new system provides a more flexible set of facilities and allows easy integration of any digital projection system we may wish to install at a later date.

Three contractors were asked to quote for the installation, based on the specification of requirements put together in 2014 and revised a bit in 2015. HilltopAV were awarded the contract. They have plenty of experience in churches, and were extremely helpful and customer oriented all the way through. They continue to provide help and assistance when we need it, but we are especially grateful to Tony Philpott for overseeing the implementation and training up and supporting our volunteer band of operators to whom we also give our grateful thanks: they have taken on the new system with good effect.

As well as better sound coverage in the nave and aisles, we now have speakers in the chancel so it is easy for the choir to hear. The microphones in the chancel aid projection of the music and singing. Recording of services, and the playing of a variety of sorts of music, is made simple with the digital system. It is a great deal more flexible to support schools services with children performing. The Hearing Loop now covers the whole of the church.

Churchyard

Parish Office

During the past year, the clients of the Probation Service have continued to mow the grass fortnightly and have additionally cut back hedges and pruned bushes ensuring that the churchyard remains tidy and accessible to all. A letter of thanks has been sent from the church to the Service.

Ale House

Leslie Hitchen

Bookings are steadily increasing so the income from the Ale House is gradually rising. Unfortunately, we also had some expensive repair and maintenance bills this year but we hope these should be one-off costs.

The Ale House was decorated both inside and out in the Autumn and is now looking splendid. The one remaining improvement on our list is to replace the moth-eaten 30-year-old curtains. If anyone has redundant curtains or unused material which might be suitable, or could help with the making of the curtains, I would be delighted to hear from you.

The Ale House Lunch Club generously donated £100 to the funds in December, for which we would like to say thank you.

The Ale House 100 Club is now running from February to November and has 61 members this year. If anyone would like to join we would be very pleased to enrol you. For a subscription of £10 each member's name is placed in a draw 10 times during the year with the chance of winning a first prize of £15 or a second prize of £5

Communication & Outreach

The Clock

Joy Conlon

The Clock continues to be an important means of communication for the community. The variety of information, advertising and 'what's on' is appreciated by all our readers.

We always welcome new copy—so if you have an interesting/ topical/ local story to tell, please send this to 'theclock@colwallchurch.org' or handwritten to the Parish Office -by the 10th of each month (no edition in August). Suitable photos and pictures are also needed for the front cover, please.

I must thank Sue Armstrong for co-ordinating the advertising -no mean task, as we usually have a waiting list from local businesses and trades.

Welcomers

Jill Withington

All Colwall is covered by 73 Welcomers who will deliver, with a word of welcome, a Welcome Pack to newcomers in their area. The packs, which are collected from 19 Oak Drive when required, contain lots of information about our churches and other village groups and activities. In the past twelve months 25 packs have been taken out, plus a further 21 taken by Ken to those who've moved into Lime Tree Gardens and Primeswell. They are, with the welcome given, much appreciated. The information is as accurate as possible, but please do tell me of any changes to regular dates, times, venues and contact names. Thanks to the Welcomers and to Joy for printing the packs.

CTiC

Rev Anne Lanyon-Hogg

- CTiC have continued to meet regularly.
- Recent meetings have included planning joint services - the Farmyard Nativity and the Unity Service.
- Outline planning has been completed for Lent 2017, including some initiatives which will use various media (film, craft, walking) as different foci in different weeks. Consideration is also being given to how services are organised on Good Friday, in order to maximise participation.
- It has also been agreed the St James and CoCoChu will update each other on new developments at each meeting, so that everyone is aware of what is planned.
- Andy and Sandy Schulkins, who attend both churches, have joined the committee.
- More representation from St James is urgently needed, as Melanie and Anne are the only representatives who are not also involved in Colwall Community Church.
- The committee is also urgently seeking a new treasurer.

St James Aston Link Activities

Joy Conlon

Our friends from St James, Aston again joined us in July for our

Patronal Festival service held at St James, Cradley—this was followed by an excellent lunch here in Colwall, and our usual array of scrumptious desserts, made and donated by members of our congregation—thank you. Much chat and socialising followed before a service of choral evensong and tea.

We again held a Village Quiz in November; ably MC'd by Steve Hockett (who also set the questions)—the money raised is much appreciated by St James.

Ministry

Ministry Team

Bill Clucas

Carrying on from last year. Arrangements for collecting the questionnaires and setting up a Saturday advisory session in St Crispin's chapel to clarify any points that were found to be confusing. The results were then collated to bring out various issues that the congregation had raised. These issues were examined at the ministry team meetings. Music was one issue but it was found the congregation was split evenly over ancient and modern music so both will need to be included.

A major issue was dissatisfaction with the existing services. It was decided to produce new services relevant to the seasons of the Church year. New service sheets were produced and examined on a line-by-line basis by the team. They were then tested in a church service and modified after feedback from the congregation. Another issue was young people and their shortage in the Church. Melanie, in conjunction with the headmistress, has introduced 'Messy Church' into the Village school, which has proved very popular. Special services for young people have been discussed and are being implemented, for example 'Experiencing Christmas'.

New Baptismal liturgies, which are more relevant to our, often unchurched, families, are planned.

A mission-planning day (MAP) was arranged with a follow up after a 10AM service. Subsequently the points arising from the MAP days have been discussed and actions agreed.

It was decided that all meetings are to start and end with prayer, as prayer is our central powerhouse, and encouraging prayer in all our work is essential.

Colwall Care Scheme

June Weber

The Care Scheme continues to provide a valuable service with transport to medical appointments, emergency shopping, occasional meals and sitting with people to give carers a short break.

For this service to continue we are in need of new volunteer drivers. If you can offer a few hours on an occasional basis please contact June or the Parish Office.

Please contact me if you know of anyone (or yourself) who is in need of help from the Care Scheme—details on the inside cover of the Colwall Clock.

Solo club meets weekly on a Saturday at the Community Church and this is a good contact point to promote the Care Scheme and to advise on access to various services—to hear by word of mouth about people who may have a currant need.

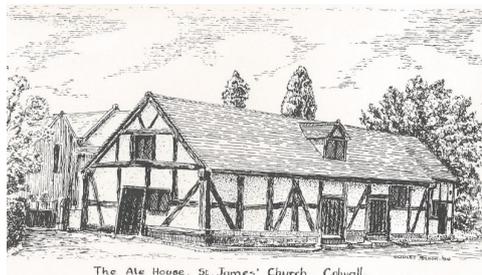
Finally I would like to thank our Volunteers for their great willingness and support they give—without them the scheme could not operate.

Ale House Lunch

Ale House Team

The Alehouse Lunch Club provides elderly people, particularly those who live on their own, with the opportunity to socialise over a shared lunch. Transport is provided by volunteers. The lunch takes place on the first Wednesday of each month except for January and August. Donations cover costs and the lunch is organised by a willing group of helpers. Surplus funds have this year enabled us to make a donation of £100 towards the upkeep of the Ale House building. We will also be able to take everyone for afternoon tea at the Colwall Park Hotel as a special treat.

If you know of any older folk living on their own who may like to join us please let Heather know on 01684 541681 or have a word with any member of the team. Also if you would like to join our team in any capacity and can commit to about five sessions a year we would love to hear from you. We are particularly in need of drivers.



The Ale House, St. James' Church, Colwall.

Choir

Patricia Hockett

On Good Friday the augmented choir sang sacred pieces which were interspersed with readings and congregational hymns. We were privileged to perform a Good Friday carol specially written by our conductor Peter Johnson.

Sadly, two weeks later we sang at Gerry's thanksgiving service. Gerry had been a regular and faithful member of the choir for many years and we miss him very much.

In October, we sang at the annual Diocesan RSCM choir festival at Hereford Cathedral and it is always good when members of our own congregation join us for evensong on that day.

Our augmented choir joined us once again for the Village Carol Service and once again Peter wrote a carol dedicated to the Church Choir. We were a small choir that sang at midnight on Christmas Eve but with unaccompanied carols sung during communion we managed to sustain four-part harmony. Hopefully we will be able to manage a choir albeit a small one at midnight services in the future.

The choir sang at a number of weddings during the year both here and at Coddington.

Since the beginning of February, we have been rehearsing *Colwall Requeim for Aleppo* written by Liz Johnson which is to be performed on Passion Sunday the 2 April at 4.00pm. This is an exciting new work incorporating a children's choir from Colwall Primary School and students from John Masefield and St Mary's High Schools.

I would like to thank all those dedicated choristers who sing Sunday by Sunday throughout the year as well as the augmented choir who join us on special occasions. My thanks also go to Sue for all her accompanying and Marian for the administrative and organisational work she does for the choir. Lastly my thanks to Peter Johnson for his hard work and enthusiasm and for occasionally taking us out of our comfort zone.

Orchestra

Susan Humphrey

Sadly the orchestra has only met a handful of times since my last report but I do appreciate the constant support of 'my' players. Sometimes we are not required but at others I have been away. I do miss dear Barbara Dutton, who as well as playing her violin, used to take over the running of the orchestra on these occasions. It is time I advertised for some new (especially young) players to carry the torch. There must be hidden talent in the village and it is so important to continue the live musical contribution to church services. I look forward to the orchestra playing on February 26th at a new kind of service, Wider Worship, and hopefully, at the traditional Mothering Sunday one. Thank you to everyone.

Flowers

Pinkie Elliston

We held our annual coffee morning again, on 6th March with the company of the MU making gorgeous posies for Mothering Sunday.

We arranged flowers for seven weddings this past year as well as a few funerals, Easter Sunday, The Ale House Festival, Patronal Festival, Harvest Festival, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas, and the weekly floral decorations.

We only raised £42 from the Easter Lily donations last year, so we have decided to put small envelopes in church for donations in memory of loved ones. These are at the end of each pew and in a basket on the half moon table by the front door. We hope this will encourage more folk to give.

Some people love the Christmas Trees arranged by local clubs and societies, but others miss the Christmas arrangements, so last Christmas we did both and hopefully everyone is happy!

Thank you to all the flower ladies and Ben who tend the flowers each week and keep the church looking so beautiful, and to those who allow me to raid their gardens for greenery.

We have had a couple of new recruits this year, which is tremendous, but still if you know of anyone who would like to join our merry band, please let me know.

Church Bells

Robin Riches

Our membership at Colwall has remained about the same as last year, as regards paid up members of the Hereford Guild of Bell ringers, but two more are due to be elected this year. We also have some new recruits to our band who started last year. Two are able to ring rounds unaided and one is still at the bell-handling stage, but progressing well.

As in previous years we rung for the 10 am Sunday parish communion service and the 11.00am service of Matins at Coddington on the 1st & 3rd Sunday's . We rang for 5 weddings at St James and 3 at All Saints.

Our practice nights on Monday's are continuing and have recently been enhanced by a few of the less experienced ringers from Malvern Priory joining us to get more 'ringing' time to help them improve, also this is useful to our learners

The electronic simulator is used regularly by the district bands, especially during the winter months, for Saturday mornings training sessions and also by us for bell-handling teaching.

We look forward to 2017 as another year progresses.

Mothers' Union

Jan Bartlett

2016 saw Mothers' Union continue to flourish in Colwall. Our regular meetings included a visit from the new Herefordshire Diocese Mothers' Union President Linda Ross. Everyone enjoyed a relaxed meeting, getting to know each other and hearing about MU in the wider diocese and indeed the wider world. During the year we were delighted to have 'our' clergy members, Melanie, Anne and Ken take Communion, lead a meditation and give a talk on Mary's! We are very grateful to everyone who comes and talks to us and are always pleased to hear of ideas for further speakers. Our meetings are open to everyone and visitors are welcome.

Our members remain involved in all aspects of Church life throughout the year. We very much appreciate the support the congregation gives us, especially for events like the Lent Lunch and our fundraising.

One special opportunity we had this year was to support the MU Diocesan involvement in welcoming Syrian families from the refugee camps who came to Herefordshire before Christmas.

Linda told us about the plan to provide 'welcome/starter packs' of

toiletries and household cleaning materials for them and our members responded with great generosity so that we were able purchase and deliver to Hereford a large quantity of items. Knowing the composition of the five families with their children, including in one family an 80 year old, made it seem much more close and real. *Christian Care for Families* (however composed) is what Mothers' Union is all about.

Sacristans

Parish Office

I start this report by expressing all our tanks to Jenny Houghton for her sterling work as Sacristan—we will miss her and wish her well in the next adventures she undertakes.

If you feel that taking on the role of Sacristan is something you are called to do/ would like to know more about, please talk to Melanie.

The current team consists of Barbara Hatton, Jan Bartlett, Gillian Turner, Dorothy Lockyear and Cicely Palmer as our sacristan in chief at St Crispin's. Thanks goes to all of them for their help over the past twelve months. As always we would welcome some additional volunteers for this service to the church, so if you would be prepared to occasionally help set up the elements before a service and wash up afterwards please contact Melanie.

Servers 'Who lead the way'

from the Parish Office

We are indebted to Barbara Hatton, who co-ordinates the SMALL team of Servers (some have been doing this for many years!), BUT we still need more recruits—age no restriction!

PLEASE see Barbara if you would like to find out what this role involves.



Social Activities

Joy Conlon

In addition to events organised by the fundraising team—we also provided refreshments for Epiphany Sunday, Parochial Festival lunch and Harvest lunch.

My thanks to ALL who give their time and talents so generously for these events.

The Church Website

Mark Illingworth

The church website at colwallchurh.org remains in the mould set by its originator, Chris Sennett, but has evolved to exploit developments in web technology. One of these has been to enable the inclusion of sound in the body of web pages. Many of the sermons delivered in St James can now be read on the website while listening to the recording. The new sound system provides digital recordings, a welcome replacement for the previous audio cassettes.

Aspirations for the future include a new look, more suited to display on the smaller screen of a smartphone or tablet and a better method of displaying photographs. Perhaps we should use one of the popular free social network sites, rather than our own website.

Mark would be glad to hand over the role of website manager, especially to someone who could make better use of the opportunities for outreach.

COLWALL PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2016

INCOME	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
	£	£
Collections	7131	7686
Gift aid	37414	38672
Income tax recoverable	10570	10368
General donations	900	505
Investment and bank interest	2489	2444
Church fees	10817	7799
Magazine (net of expenditure)	3432	3499
Property income less costs	-1031	-80
Fund raising	8493	4473
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	80216	75366
EXPENDITURE		
Clergy allowances and training	1616	1809
Sanctuary expenses	688	559
Organ and organists expenses	2674	2473
Church maintenance (including heat and light, insurance, cleaning, repairs and maintenance)	8919	9847
Administration (including books, stationery, postage, secretarial and stewardship)	10900	10218
Children - Messy Church	198	0
Miscellaneous	245	346
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	25240	25252
Diocesan Parish Share (Quota)	56106	52287
Contributions to Missions and charities	2500	4186
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	83846	81725
(DEFICIT) SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	<hr/>	<hr/>
	-3630	-6359

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2015

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
FUND BALANCES		
	6668	5872
Friends of St James		
Designated	0	0
Parish General	0	1948
Organ	5331	5331
see note 1 Fabric	93641	102207
Flower	2439	2696
Bells	1848	1896
	<u>109927</u>	<u>119950</u>
INVESTED IN:-		
CBF shares and deposits	72,405	67823
Lloyds Bank Plc	2375	1243
Santander	7113	7009
Cafcash Deposits	34020	51010
Debtors less creditors	-5985	-7135
	<u>109927</u>	<u>119950</u>

NOTE 1:

This includes a £1000 grant from the Allchurches Trust for the new Sound System
The cost of the sound system (£13866) was charged directly to the Fabric Fund.

